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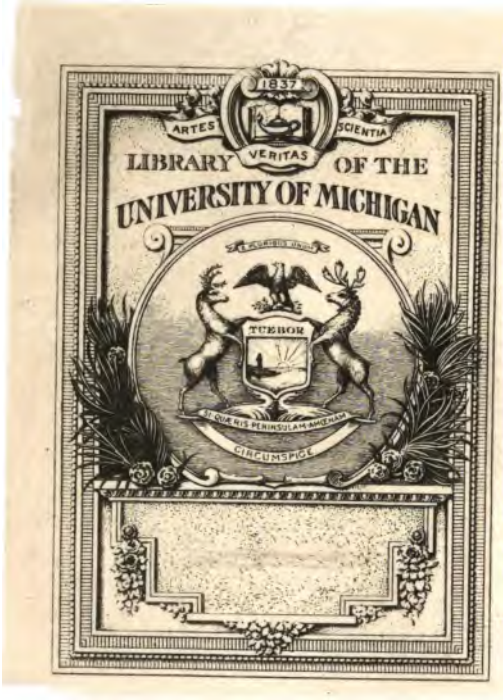
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Mr. *BURNETT's*

LETTER

TO THE

Earl of *Halifax*,

THE NECESSITY OF Impeaching THE LATE MINISTRY,

In a LETTER to the Earl of *Halifax*.

Burnet, Sir Thomas.

By THOMAS BURNETT, *Esq*;

And at the Head of this Angelick Band,
Lo! how the goodly Prince at last doth stand,
(Oh Righteous God) on his one happy Hand,
'Tis happy now, which could with so much Ease.
Recover from so desperate a Disease,
A various complicated Ill,
Whose every Symptom was enough to kill,
While One in Three Frenzy possest,
And Lethargy the Rest. COWLEY.

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A LETTER, &c.

My LORD,

AFTER having openly declar'd against the late Ministry, even when their Hands were strengthen'd with Power to untimidate those, who were not animated with a more than ordinary Zeal for our Constitution, I belive you will not be much suppriz'd now at my assuring your Lordship, that I still continue firm in my former Opinion, that they deserve to be exalted to the *highest Posts* in the Nation.

And I have the rather presumed to address my self to your Lordship after this Manner, because I am well satisfy-'d, that it is our present Happiness to be govern'd by a Monarch, who has not fail'd to pay a due Reguard to your great Services and Abilities.

I know, my Lord, and indeed I know it with Indignation, that some of your Enemies (and it's hard to distinguish them from those of your Country) have been industrious in representing you as a Favourer of those Men, whom through the whole Course of your Life, in both Houses of Parliament, you have been famous for opposing. Thase are Idle Rumours, which your Lordship's late Discovery of the Abuses committed in *Chelsea* College does sufficiently refute; and if we were to trace them, I doubt not but we should find that they were spread about by these Men, whose Game for this twenty five Years past, has been to create Divisions amongst the true Friends of this Nation.

My Lord, As no honest *Briton* could forbear even from Transports

Tranſports of Joy upon his Majeſty's happy Settlement in theſe Kingdoms, ſo no true Lover of his Country but would be glad, even at the Expence of his Blood, to purchaſe to us the Continuance of ſuch an inſtimable Bleſſing. And in this, I am ſure, none would be more ready than ſuch as your Lordſhip, and the other Men of Eminence and Figure, who by their Employments are happily ſituated ſo near the Perſon of their Sovereign, as to have daily Opportunities of diſcovering in Him thoſe excellent Qualities, which declare him worthy of the Crown he wears.

Now you cannot be any one Action more effectually ſecure to your ſelves the Poſſeſſion of that Great Prince, or the Hearts of your Fellow-Subjects, than by puniſhing thoſe who have ſhewn themſelves Enemies to the Title of the One, and to the Proſperity of the Other. You can never hope to plead a greater Merit to King *GEORGE*, than the calling thoſe to an Account, who would have diſpoſed of his Inheritance to another; nor can you teſtify your Affection to this Nation by any more evident Token, than the arraigning of thoſe, how have betray'd and oppreſs'd it

My Lord, You ſee what Riots and what Tumults have been rais'd in many Parts of this Iſland, particularly on Days ſet apart for publick Joy on the happy Acceſſion of our good King; and you cannot but have obſerved what inſolent and ſeditious Libels have been diſperſ'd abroad, highly reflecting both upon Him and his Government, by thoſe whom its Lenity has encourag'd. Now, were the Heads of this FACTION ſeis'd, were there a certain Appearance of their being brought to anſwer for theſe Crimes for which no puniſhment could be too rigorous, the Spirits of the whole Party would droop, and our glorious Monarch might promiſe himſelf a peaceable Enjoyment of the *Britiſh* Throne all the reſt of his Days. But if, on the contrary, the Actions of theſe Traitors are ſlurr'd over in Silence, it will but ſerve for an Encouragement to them in their Inſolence; and *Jacobitiſm*, which of late Years has been in too flouriſhing a Condition will now again take ſuch Root, as many probably give this Reign no leſs Diſturbance, than

it

it did to that of the Great King *William*.

Give me Leave, my Lord, for once to inform your Lordship of Thinks which you are much better acquainted with than my self, and to lay before before you the Accusations charg'd upon the late Ministry whilst they sate at the Helm; most of which I am perswaded are capable of being prov'd against them now. The Catalogue of them will be so great, and every Particular of it so black, and will doubtless loudly call for an Impeachment.

To begin then. We were told, my Lord upon the very first Entrance of these Men into Business, that they settled a Correspondence with *France*, by negotiating clandestine Articles of Peace; which tho' they were of the greatest Importance, were wholly trusted to the Managment of two inconsiderable Upstarts, who whilst they were betraying the Interest of their Nation, had in it themselves no Property to loose: Nor could we in Justice expect a better Behaviour, when the Cheif of the Ministry, whose Servant was hang'd for keeping a treasonable Intelligence with *Versailles*, had himself appear'd to be no Stranger to that Court. We were told, that notwithstanding one of the Articles of the Grand Alliance in express Terms requires, That no Treaty of Peace shall so much as be set on Foot by any one of the Allies without the Knowledge and Consent of all the rest, yet that these Negotiations had been carry'd on for many Months, and even brought to a Conclusion, before any one of the Confederates were made privy to the least Step in them; and to strengthen this, if we compare the Preliminaries which Count *Gallas* publish'd. (and the Government at that Time deny'd) with the Articles of Peace agreed on at *Utrecht*, we shall find but little Difference between them. We were told, my Lord, that this Peace was no less scandalous in its Nature, than in the Methods by which it was obtain'd; and that by it the Whole which we had for the Course of so many Years been fighting for, was at once abandoned to the Enemy, and that, even at a time when we were in a condition of demanding our own Terms, which *France* durst not then have

have deny'd us, We were told, that before his *Grace* the Duke of O —— produced those execrable Orders for not Fighting, he had given the *Dutch* and the Emperor's Ministers all possible Assurances, that he would act in concert with them, by which means he was admitted into a great part of the Secrets of their Measures that Campaign. We were told, that when that unhappy General withdrew from the Scence of Action with his Troops to *Ghent*, that if the Forces in the Confederate Camp, then under the Pay of *Great-Britain*, had listned to the Proposals he was commanded to make them, and had follow'd him in his Retreat, the whole Army of the Allies must have been at the Mercy of the Enemy. We were told, that by this shameful Peace, which contrary to the Grand Alliance gave up *Spain* and the *West-Indias* to a Prince of the House of *Bourbon*, our Trade would be reduc'd to a Trifle, and *Portugal* and *Brazil* with all its inexhaustible Mines, would soon fall into the Hands of the Univetsal Monarch *Lewis*; so that in a short time, poor *England* would have no share in the Gold of *America*, but what came over to bribe her *Ministers*. We were told, that the Fishery, which by the Treaty of Peace is permitted to the *French* upon the Coasts of *Newfoundland*, was directly contrary to an Act of Parliament made in the Reign of King *William*; in order to prevent all Strangers from Fishing in those Parts. We were told, that the Brave and Generous *Catalans*, (who had receiv'd under her Majesty's Hand, many repeated Assurances, that she wou'd procure for them all their Ancient Privileges) were basely Deserted and Abandon'd to be made a Sacrifice to the Resentment of *Philip*, when the bare Intercession of our Ministry might have secured them: But they were too great Lovers of Slavery to be friend such glorious Asserters of Liberty! We were told that though our Statesmen here at Home, amus'd us with idle hopes of having *Dunkirk demolish'd*, yet that by private Agreements, that was not to be effected, till such time as the King of *France* should have provided himself with as much better Port upon the same Coast, and that the

Equivalent

Equivalent for this trifling Conceſſion, was no leſs than the Treaty of Commerce. But I ſhall omit the many Reflections, that we were told might be made upon this *Palatine Treaty*, ſince the Scandalouſneſs of it cannot more evidently be made appear from any one Circumſtance, than that the worſt Parliament which ever ſat in this Iſland, could not be brought to digeſt it. We were told, that our Miniſtry paid Penſions to ſeditious Highlanders, that openly avowed the Pretender's Cauſe; and that they fail'd not of uſing their utmoſt endeavours (how they ſucceeded I need not ſay) to procure as many Repreſentatives of the Peerage in *Scotland*, that favoured the *Jacobite* Intereſt, as was poſſible. We were told of frequent Diſcoveries of a Correſpondence with St. *Germains* firſt, and afterwards with *Lorrain*; and that when a certain Viſcount made a Voyage into *France*, to receive the Bounty of his Country's Enemies, he did not return to his native Land, without paying firſt his Duty to his vagrant Maſter. We were told, that the voluptuous Secretary had drove with ſo much Expedition, that all things were almoſt ripe for an Invaſion, and that the Pretender would not have been abſent long from this Nation, had not the unforeſeen Accident of the Queen's Prevented all their Deſigns, and renderd all their Schemes abortive. We were every Day alarmed with the News of Outlaw'd *Papiſts* and Nonjurers, that were even admitted into the Palace of St. *James*'s, and heard of nothing but *Priests* and *Abbots* that were employ'd to negotiate our Deſtruction, by a Miniſtry that could pretend to have no Friends, but the Enemies of *Great-Britain*. In ſhort, every Day we were told of ſome new Step that theſe great Men had taken towards our Ruin, and were well aſſured that their very Quarrels were the reſult of a Jealouſy the reſt had conceived of their Chief, as if he was not making haſte enough to compleat our Miſery. To ſum up all in one Word, we were told by the eminents Patriots, and particularly by your Lordſhip, (who never yet appear'd backward

in attacking the Foes of your Country) that it might soon be made evident, how our Nation and its Liberties were sold and betray'd to a foreign *Prince*, how our poor Queen was deluded and lull'd asleep by an artful Train of Lies, and how the publick Treasure was squandered away, in the vilest and most profuse manner; some of it being employed in buying that very *Peace*, which was our undoing, while a few Statesmen were enriching themselves with the Remainder, or paying their Underlings with it, for the Drudgery of acting against their Concience. I had like to have omitted the barbarous Usage that the *Protestant* Commons of *Ireland* met with, when for their Zeal for the Cause of Liberty they were very near being massacred by the *Papists*; who always proved hearty Friends to the late Wretches in *Power*, and proper Tools for their scandalous Agent in that Country.

This, my Lord, was the Charge brought against the late Ministry, not only in *Print*, but also in both Houses of *Parliament*; and this, I am sure, my Lord, you will acknowledge the Men now at the Helm are bound in Honour and Conscience to make good against them, as far as *Proofs* can be produced. And truly, if the *Publick* has been thus imposed upon by usurping Statesmen, as I make no doubt it has, none but an Enemy to his Country, who would be glad to see it under such a Management again, can consent to let them escape unpunished. For should Men, who have thus basely conducted themselves, while they were in *Power*, be allowed to go unquestioned, what remains but for every succeeding Minister, who has more Ability then Conscience, to follow their Example, and thrive by the Destruction of the Nation? There can no Motive, no Argument be made use of for the future, in order to punish evil Counsellors, but what may much more strenuously be urg'd in the present Case. And should the late Ministry, by an impardonable Indulgence be forgiven, and shou all their Attempts, to ruin the best Constitution in th

World

World, be paſt over in Silence, it would remain as a ſtanding Invitation in Hiſtory to all the Favourites of a Court, (when they knew they had a weak Monarch to deal with) to become Traitors to him, without fear of receiving any other Reward for it, than a Pardon. For what Crimes ſo henious, or what Treachery ſo deteſtable can our Poſterity be guilty of, that will not be warranted by the Behaviour of the late Men in Power, if that be once allowed as a good Precedent?

But, my Lord, to touch upon the tendereſt Point, and what I know lays neareſt your Lordſhip's Heart, I mean the contemptible Figure we have of late Years made abroad. What can we ſay more effectual to convince our honeſt Confederates, that it was not the Britiſh *Nation, but a handful of baſe ill-deſigning Men, then in Places, that treacherouſly abandoned them, than that the Legiſlature of this Kingdom have now executed Juſtice on thoſe very Miniſters? The Emperor, whom they firſt treated with the higeſt Contempt, and then ſcandalouſly deſerted; the* Dutch, *whom they compell'd, or rather bully'd into Terms almoſt as diſadvantageous as their own; the* Engliſh Nation, *whom they ſo ſhamefully impoſed upon and ſet to ſale; the* Duke *of* Marlborough, *whom they obliged to forſake that Native Land, which his Arms had ſo gloriouſly preſerved; but above all, the Brave, the Noble-minded, but alas the now conquer'd* Catalans, *call upon you for ſpeedy Vengeance on theſe Wretches. And on the other Hand, there does not appear to be ſo much as one ſingle honeſt, good or generous Action during their whole Reign, that might plead in their behalf* —— *No not one!*

What then can be urged againſt the the Impeachment of ſuch a Set of Men?

I am well aware, my Lord, that ſome very cautious Men, at leaſt ſome who will make Caution their Pretence,

may think it impolitick, if not unſafe, for a King, but newly ſettled on the Throne, to begin with Executions, and with ſhedding the Blood of his Subjects. But when by the Trial of theſe Men, it ſhall appear, that they only ſuffer for oppreſſing the Nation, it will knit the Hearts of all honeſt *Britons* more ſtrongly to their Monarch, who thus nobly revenges their Wrongs. And indeed the very Act of Settlement, as if it had foreſeen the bad Miniſters we were likely to have, as well as the Clemency natural to our new King, has put it out of his Power to be gentle to the Enemies of his Country, by making his Pardon no Bar to a Parliamentary Impeachment. So that it is not his acting in, but meerly countenancing the Proſecution of ſuch Men that is deſired; and when he has ſhewn his Reſentment in ſo juſt a manner againſt his moſt profeſſed Enemies, it will intimidate the reſt from daring to appear ſo. It was the want of doing Juſtice on the Oppreſſors of this Nation at the late Glorious Revolution, that gave Heart to the diſponding *Jacobites*, and made Reign of K. *William* a Scene of Diſorder and Confuſion, and to that was owing the oppoſition he met with in all his Meaſures. For believe me, the whole Party of Paſſive Gentlemen are only to be reſtrain'd while the Rod hangs over their Heads, and never yet afforded Trouble to any, but thoſe who were ill enough adviſ'd to uſe them well. But I am perſuaded, I need not at this time of Day, inform your Lordſhip, that the *Jacobites* are a Set of Men, whom no Kindneſſes can win over, and whom gentle Treatment but ſerves to make Inſolent. The only Method by which we can hope to get rid of them, muſt be by cruſhing the whole Neſt at a Blow. Nor can I perceive that they could with any Juſtice complain of it, as a Hardſhip done them, ſhould the Wiſdom of our Legiſlatur find it neceſſary to command them to diſpoſe of their Lands in this Nation, and remove their Perſons, together with their Effects, into ſome other Country, whoſe Conſtitution they could be better Friends to. For what can be more abſurd, than for us to permit a Sect to live amongſt us, who muſt of courſe keep

keep a conſtant Correſpondence with our Enemies, and who can propoſe to themſelves no Happineſs or Security ſo great as the Subverſion of this preſent Government. This is a ridiculous Eaſineſs and Lenity, that is not known to any other Nation or Eſtabliſhment in *Europe* beſides; but I ſhall have occaſion to ſay more of this another Time.

To return then to my former Subject: There are others who ſeem to doubt, Whether the late Miniſtry are oblig'd by Law to anſwer for Crimes, which they acted under the Queen's Name and with her Warrant. But the Happineſs of our Conſtitution is, that all the Executors of a Sovereign's Illegal Orders, from a Plenipotentiary down to a Conſtable, are anſwerable for their very Execution of them. And any Man who will but conſider the ancient Maxim, that *the King can do no Wrong*, will find the only Reaſon upon which that Maxim is founded, to be becauſe the Monarch's Counſellors are anſwerable for all his Actions. Upon this account, in many Paſſages of our Hiſtorians, we find the Barrons of *England* riſing up in Arms to aſſert this undoubted Right of theirs, to puniſh the Oppreſſions of Court-Favorites. And we often find theſe Barons (who were not then made by the Dozen) removing bad Miniſters from the Perſons of their Sovereigns, and puniſhing ſome of them with Baniſhment, and others of them with Death. For brevity ſake, I ſhall refer your Lordſhip to the Reigns of King *Edward* the Second and King *Richard* the Second, who being both of them but weak Princes, had their Councils frequently weeded by Parliamentary Impeachments. After this I believe no one will pretend to affirm, that the late Miniſtry may not be brought to a Tryal, for their illegal Management during the Reign of our deceas'd Sovereign, without without the leaſt ſtretch of Law.

And indeed, my Lord, it ſeems prepoſterous, that a poor hungry Wretch ſhould be hang'd for Robbing on the High-

High-way, and a Lord Treaſurer that has pillag'd a whole Nation, ſhould be left at Liberty to enjoy the Spoils of it. Should a pitiful Attorney but forge a Common Deed, he ſhould ſoon be pillory'd for his Villany, and ſhall a Lord Chancellor, that has affix'd the Great Seal of a Kingdom to a Peace that is contrary to the Laws of that very Kingdom, fail of being call'd to an Account for it? On what can appear more ridiculous, than that an inferior Clerk in an Office ſhould be put to Death, for diſcovering one ſingle Project of a Miniſtry to a Foreign Prince, and that a Principal Secretary of State, who went over into an Enemy's Country, to diſcover the whole Projects of another Miniſtry, ſhould paſs unpuniſh'd?

If this were to be the Method of diſtributing Juſtice, if this were to be the partial Procedure of a Government, it would be a juſt Encouragement to every Officer, that was employ'd in the Publick Buſineſs, to endeavour to avoid being in the Rank with common Villians, who by this means would be the only Perſons in Danger. But alas were am I running? Or why do I imagin that the late Miniſtry can fail of an Impeachment, when every Circumſtance of their Conduct ſpeaks ſo loudly for it, and moſt of all their late Behaviour, which has been no leſs than a Defiance to their King, whilſt he is ſeated on his Throne.

Give me leave, my Lord, to rouſe your juſt Indignation againſt them, by laying before you a ſhort Sketch of their Conduct, even ſince her late Majeſty's Deceaſe.

You may remember my Lord, with what Impudence they pretended to have as great a Share in the Good Will of our preſent Monarch, as any of thoſe, who had even ventur'd their All to ſerve him. And when, at his happy Arrival, he falſify'd all thoſe Rumours, by the Choice of an honeſt and vigilant Miniſtry, you have ſeen with what Malice they have ever ſince endeavour'd to blacken

their

their Characters, and render them odious to the People; first by spreading Reports, as if they intended to engage our Nation in a New War, and then by accusing them of a Design to Tax the Funds, and by it ruin the Publick Credit, which begins now again to flourish. Nor did their Invetracy stop here, for in their insolent and scandalous Libels, they spared not even the King and his whole Royal Family. I might here quote to you some Passages in that Traiterous Pamphelt, intitl'd, English *Advice to the Freeholders of* England, that would sufficiently evince this Matter; and I might at the same time demonstrate to your Lordship, how false and groundless all the Assertions there made, are; but besides that such an Undertaking wou'd swell my Letter into much too great a Bulk, it wou'd likewise spread that Scandal, which I think, can meet with no better Answer than from the Sentence of a Court of Justice.

And now, my Lord, I leave you to judge, if this Deportment does in any manner merit the Indulgance of the Court for past Offences. Does it in any wise look like the Behaviour of Men that would desire a Pardon, or indeed accept of one, although it should be offer'd to them? No, it rather looks that of Enemies that have thrown away the Scabbard, and fancy themselves secure of a Foreign Army to back them.

But to proceed? My Lord, when the late Earl of *Godolphin* and the rest of his Associates, were worm'd out of their Imployments by these undermining Wretches, was not almost every Pamphlet and every *Examiner* full of Scandalous Reflections upon them, as having been guilty of Male-Administration? Were they not then accus'd of having privately agreed with the *Dutch* and the Emperor, to ease them of their Share in the War, by throwing far the greatest Weight of it upon the Nation? Was not the Duke of *Marlborough* charg'd with a Design of making himself General for

Life, and were we not aſſured that he had prolonged the War, only on purpoſe to continue his own great Revenue, which muſt have ſunk by a *Peace*? And at length did not the Houſe of Commons Vote Thirty Five Millons of the Publick Treaſure to remain unaccounted for? Did they not in their Repreſentation declare, that the Allies had not any of them furniſh'd out their reſpective Quota's, but that the Burthen of the War, almoſt wholly lay upon this Kingdom? Did they not afterwards paſs another Vote upon the Duke of *Marlborough*, as having filed his own Coffers with the Bread Money, which he had exacted out of Soldiers Allowance. and did they not Addreſs Her Majeſty to proſecute him for the aforeſaid Money? Did they not Vote my Lord *Townſhend* to be an Enemy to his Country, for having Sign'd the Barrier Treaty, that noble (and indeed only) Guarantee of the Proteſtant Succeſſion? And was not Mr. *Walpole* ſent by them to Tower, upon pretence that he had taken a Bribe from thoſe who were contracting with the Government for the Supply of part of the Forces.

That theſe things were charg'd upon the Whig Miniſtry, and however notoriouſly, falſe in themſelves, were found true by a Houſe of Commons at that time, no Man can deny.

And pray, my Lord, what was the anſwer then given by thoſe Worthy Gentlemen to all theſe Accuſations? A very juſt one indeed——That had half the Crimes that they were Condemn'd for, been capable of being prov'd againſt them, there would have been ample Matter for their Impeachment; but that not being ſo much as attempted to be ſet on Foot againſt them, the World might depend upon it, that their Crimes were only imaginary, and that the Ground of their being diſcarded, was the Ambition that other Men had to ſucceed into their Places. At the ſame time they appeal'd to the whole Nation, if by any one Step of their Management,

magnanimity, the Men in Power shewed an Inclination to spare them, when they had them in their Hands.

This Answer, my Lord, satisfy'd the Honest and Understanding part of the the Country, that the Duke of *Marlborough* my Lord *Godolphin* and the rest of that Glorious Ministry were Innocent, and that the Reports spread about of them were no better than Lies, invented by the Malice of their Adversaries. And this is an Answer, my Lord, which they may retort upon your selves, should they escape a Prosecution now.

For, may they not with Justice say, that if the Quarter of what was laid to their Charge while they contin'd at the *Helm*, were capable of being now made out against them, they would be liable to an Impeachment even of High Treason, ? May they not with Justice appeal to the People of *England*, if the present Great Men have by any part of their Behaviour discover'd a readiness to forgive them, when it was in their Power to punish them?

Upon these Considerations, my Lord, they may easily insinuate to the Ignorant part of the Country (who are the only Persons they can ever have an Interest with) that their Accusations have only been the Pretences of those who now are possest of their Places; and then they may put their Affairs in a much more favourable Light.

Then they may pretend to their Fellow-Subjects, that they have deliver'd them from the dire Calamitimes of a Land consuming War, and in the stead of it, put them in a condition of enjoying the blessed Fruits of Peace.

Then they may pretend, that they are so far from having the least apprehensions of an Impeachment, that

they are ſatisfy'd no Perſons have a higher Claim to the preſent King's Favour and Affection.

Then they may pretend, that had they not concluded the Peace, and by it ſecur'd the Grand Monarch to be our faſt Friend and honeſt Ally, who knows but he might have ſtiſturbed, if not totally prevented King *George*'s Arrival to theſe his Dominions; for had he not been in Peace with us at this inſtaut of the Queen's Demiſe, he would in all probability have lent the Pretender that Aſſiſtance, which we know upon this occaſion he deny'd him.

They may then pretend, that as they had eas'd their Country of half the Load of the Land Tax, ſo they would have freed them from every other Burthen, had their Sovereign thought fit to have made uſe of them in the Direction of his Affairs.

Now, my Lord, although every one of theſe Articles are falſe although our preſent Peace has conſumed us more than a War, and although the French King's refuſing Aid to the Pretender, was more owing to his Diſability, than Religious Obſervance of his Treaties: Yet theſe are ſudh ſpecious pretences of Merit, as the late Miniſtry may with great Succeſs, amuſe the Country with. And all this joyn'd with that empty but prevaling Cry of the Danger of the Church, may in time gather ſuch a Head in the Kingdom, and occaſion ſuch an oppoſition to the Meaſures of our preſent Great Stateſmen, as may oblige King *George*, as well as it did King *William*, to make uſe of a deſtructive *Tory* Miniſtry, Nothing but an Impeachment can all at once deſtroy the Intereſt theſe Men have with the Mob, who then may be brought to conſider, what Devils they have Worſhiped.

To

To put this Argument then in the clearest, as well as in the strongest Light: Not only the Honour of our Sovereign, which is a great and noble Motive, not only the Justice due to our abused Country, which is an incitement of equal Weight, but even the Security of our whole Constitution for the future, demands the speedy Impeachment of the late Ministry.

Should the People once be brought to believe, that all the Talk of our present Statesmen's Zeal for the safety of this Nation, for the ballance of Power in Europe, *for the preservation of our Trade, and of what is infinitely dearer, our Liberties, was only a Cant to bring them again into Play, who would stir over the Threshold once more to serve them? And yet all this, my Lord, you would be thought to confess, should you neglect the Punishment of those Men, whom you accused of having betrayed all these valuable Blessings into the Hands of our Enemies.*

But alas Why am I labouring thus a Point so very evident, or who pretends to be of a different Sentiment from me? Is there any Great Man that seems averse to such a Design, or do any of them offer to Skreen the vile Peace-makers? I hope there is none that does. I am sure, notwithstanding the malicious Insinuations of your Adversaries, that your Lordship is not in the least this way inclin'd. And indeed, it would be ridiculous in any Man to imagine so, that will but consider your Character and Behaviour.

Your Lordship began the World with openly declaring even in the tyrannous Reign of King James, *against Court Oppressions, and have, for the Course of Six and Twenty Years since, continued firm, without ever wavering or trimming, to the cause of Liberty.*

T

'Tis hard, nay, 'tis barbarous and unjuſt, after this to aſperſe a Great Man (whoſe Reputation is as tender as that of a Virgin) without ſome better Grounds, than a meer Rumour. And, my Lord, I can find nothing that more ſtrongly Impeaches the late Miniſtry, than your Conduct during the ſhort time your Lordſhip has been at the Head of the Treaſury, of which I beg leave to mention but one Inſtance. My Lord Ox———d after concluding the Peace, had kept all the Seamen for Two Years together in Pay, whereas your Lordſhip has even already found means to Pay off all the poor Creatures, excepting only a few.

I ſhall ſay no more on this Subject, but that I wiſh, for the ſake of my Country, that thoſe who have ſpread theſe evil and groundleſs Reports of your Lordſhip, appear in the end to be as hearty in the Cauſe themſelves. We need not queſtion then, but the Peace-makers will anſwer for their Treaſons with their Heads, and will add one Example more to our English *Hiſtory of Courtiers, who while they were contriving the Ruin of their Country, periſh'd themſelves, before they could bring their Projects to bear.*

The Seizure of one late Plenipotentiary Peace-maker's Papers, the favourable Anſwer given to the Noble Addreſs of the Lieutenancy of the City of London, *and moſt of all the Proclamation for the calling a New Parliament, ſeem to promiſe the Impeachment of the late Miniſtry in a few Months. And here, my Lord, give me leave to quote you the Paragraphs in the King's Proclamation, that give me theſe Glorious, theſe Comfortable Hopes.*

We cannot omit on this firſt occaſion of Summoning our Parliament (in Juſtice to our ſelves, and that the Miſcarriges of others may not be imputed to us, at a time when falſe Impreſſions may do the greateſt and moſt irrecoverable hurt, before they can be cleared up) to ſignifie to our whole Kingdom, that we were much

concern'd

concern'd on our Accession to the Crown, to find the Publick Affairs of our Kingdoms, under the greatest Difficulties, as well in respect of our Trade and the interruption of our Navigation, of the great Debts of the Nation, which we were surpriz'd to observe, had been very much encreas'd since the Conclusion of the last War. We do not therefore doubt, that if the ensuing Elections shall be made by our loving Subjects, with that Safety and Freedom, which by Law they are entitl'd to, and we are firmly resolv'd to maintain to them, they will send up to Parliament the fittest Persons to redress the present Disorders, and to provide for the Peace and Happiness of our Kingdoms, and the Ease of our People for the future, and therein will have a particular regard to such as shew'd affirmness to the Protestant Succession, when it was most in Danger. We have therefore found it necessary, as well for the Causes aforesaid, as for other weighty Considerations concerning us and our Kingdom, to call a New Parliament: And we do declare, &c.

Oh Noble Declaration; Worthy only of so Great so wise a King. From hence it is, my Lord, I flatter my self with certain hopes of having the late Devoures of this Nation call'd to an Account so that to all my other Arguments drawn either from the Baseness of their Crimes, or the Insolence of their Behaviour, or from the Security it would be to our present Establishment, you may add this one more, that your own Conduct has assured us of no less.

And therefore I hope that honest *English man*, Mr. *Steele*, will pardon me if I borrow his Phrase for once, and assure your Lordship, that the *British Nation expects* the speedy Impeachment of the late Ministry.

Nay they *expect it* more then ever here did the *Demolition of* Dunkirk, as being of much greater Importance. The one deſtroys a *Power* that annoy'd our Merchants Ships, and by that means leſſen'd a great part of our Trade. but the other would deſtroy a *Power* that are at once attempted to ruin all our Trade and Navigation too. They *expect it* more, becauſe the Domilition of *Dunkirk* (which is yet uneffected) we had no Aſſurance of but from *Perſons* of no Honour or Credit, but the Impeachmeut of thoſe Men, was promis'd us by ſuch as never had their Fidelity call'd in Queſtion.

In ſhort, *the* Britiſh *Nation expects* the late Miniſtry ſhould be Impeach'd, becauſe the Joy and Bleſſing of *His* Majeſty's *Reign* would be imperfect without it, and becauſe the greateſt Security he can give to his *Proteſtant* Subjects, of the Happineſs they may hope to enjoy under his Government will be the beginning with an Exemplary *Puniſhment* of Oppreſſors; though they were ſuch, with a Sovereign Authority to back them.

But before I was in the leaſt aware of it, the Copiouſneſs of my Subject has run my Letter into a tedious Length, very unfit to wait upon a Man, whoſe Hours are employ'd in reforming thoſe Abuſes, which I am only able to exclaim againſt. I ſhall therefore add as few Words more as poſſible.

I find my ſelf oblig'd to intreat your Lordſhip, firſt pardon the haſty Incorrectneſs, and then the Warmth with which the whole is written, and to be

be ſo favourable, as to impute it to the Raſh but Honeſt Zeal of a Young Man, who having commenc'd an Enemy to the late Miniſtry, even from their firſt Entrance into Power, cannot forbear purſuing them with his Reſentment even to their Grave the only Place indeed where their Crimes can be forgotten. All I have to wiſh is, that I have brought ſuch Arguments for their Impeachment, as cannot be anſwer'd, and ſuch as I hope, are agreeable to your Lordſhip's noble Sentiments.

And now, my Lord, as at the Head of my Letter I have plac'd a Quotation out of Mr. *Cowley's* Works, that ſeem'd to me entirely applicable to the Circumſtances of our preſent Glorious Deliverance, ſo I beg leave to conclude with that Noble Apology which *Cicero* makes to *Brutus* for his Satyrical Declamations againſt *Mark Anthony* and *Lypidus*.

Dixi igitur Sententias in Antonium, *dixi in* Lepidum *ſeveras; neque tam ulciſcendæ cauſa, quam ut ei in poſterum Scelerato Cives timore ab impugnanda Patria deterrerem, & in poſterum documentum hoc ſtatuerem, ne quis talem amentiam vellet imitari.* Cic. Epiſt. ad Brutum.

And knowing that your Lordſhip is endowed with this *Roman* Spirit, I beg leave to ſubſcribe my ſelf with all Reſpect and Duty.

My LORD,

Your Lordſhip's
Moſt obedient, moſt devoted
And moſt humble Servant

THOMAS BURNETT.

Poſtcript

Poſtſcript.

I Cannot cloſe up this Letter, my Lord, without adding one ſhort Word more, which is, that I hope neither the ill Rumours of open Enemies, nor the ſiniſter deſigns of *Self*-intereſted Men, will hinder your Lordſhip from continuing, to act in that brave Sphere, which you have hitherto ſhin'd in: By which you have juſtly acquired the Reputation of a Friend to your Country, and of a Patron to neglected Merit.

FINNS.